## **REMARKS**

With this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application directed to the subject matter in claims 1, 2, 5, 6 9, 10 and 13.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 14 are all the claims pending in the application.

## I. Claim Rejections

- 1) The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niikawa *et al.* (US 6,834,130) ["Niikawa"].
- 2) The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Niikawa in view of Sugitani (JP 2001-045426) ["Sugitani"].
- 3) The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niikawa in view of Pfeiffer *et al.* (US 5,146,592) ["Pfeiffer"].
- 4) The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niikawa in view of Pfeiffer and Sugitani.
- 5) The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niikawa in view of Pfeiffer and Hicks (US Patent Application 2002/0063901)

  ["Hicks"].

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

## III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 14 and for indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Attorney Docket No. Q68474

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 U.S. Application No. 10/078,384

Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 7, 11 and 14 in independent form. Applicants submit

that this application is in condition for allowance.

In the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner combines language found in claims 3 and

14. Therefore, Applicants submit that each claim is patentable based on its own language and

not based on any paraphrasing or addition of language that may have been made by the

Examiner.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 14, 2006

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